



Abstracta Iranica

Revue bibliographique pour le domaine irano-aryen

Volume 28 | 2007

Comptes rendus des publications de 2005

« A Note on the Grand Vizierate in Seventeenth Century Persia ». *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft* 155, 2005, pp. 435-481.

Akihiko Yamaguchi



Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/17762>

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2007

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Akihiko Yamaguchi, « « A Note on the Grand Vizierate in Seventeenth Century Persia ». *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft* 155, 2005, pp. 435-481. », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 28 | 2007, document 175, mis en ligne le 18 septembre 2007, consulté le 01 mai 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/17762>

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- ¹ This seminal article suggests a fresh interpretation of the dynamism of the late Safavid political process, a topic recently attracting more and more interest from researchers. In the first chapter, the author sharply criticizes the kind of approaches that deem 17th century Safavid politics to be power struggles among elite groups such as *ḡolāms*, *Qezelbāš*, *‘ulamā*, bureaucrats, and eunuchs, premising that each of these had its own common interests. To demonstrate further the limited usefulness of such a labeling, Floor in the second and third chapters tries to reconstruct the careers of two grand viziers of the 17th century, Ḥalife Solṭān and Mīrzā Moḥammad Mehdī. According to the author, neither of these two prominent figures was representative of the interests of the ‘group’ from which he came. Based on these investigations, Floor emphasizes that, when elucidating the Safavid political history, it is more productive to focus on key individuals and their networks crossing elite groups.

INDEX

Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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